

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-36 (Canceled)

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): A method for dividing an analyte present in a solution comprising:

disposing the solution including the analyte fixed to magnetic particles in a first receptacle;

attracting, with a first magnetic mechanism, the magnetic particles fixed to the analyte to a bottom of the first receptacle and forming an initial residue [[at]] on the bottom of the first receptacle; and

after forming the initial residue at the bottom of the first receptacle, dividing the initial residue into a plurality of residues by linearly displacing a second magnetic mechanism, which causes the initial residue to enter ~~transporting the initial residue through~~ into channels connecting the first receptacle to the second receptacles and to divide into the plurality of residues, wherein the transporting uses relative displacement of a magnetic field created by a second magnetic mechanism.

Claims 38-39 (Canceled).

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 37, wherein all of the channels are parallel to each other, and the ~~transporting includes~~ ~~displacing the magnetic field generated by the~~ second magnetic mechanism is linearly displaced parallel to a direction of the channels.

Claim 41 (Canceled)

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim [[39]] 37, wherein the initial residue is a single and linear-shaped residue, dividing the first receptacle into two parts.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 42, wherein each channel is located on a same side of the initial residue in a direction of the linear displacement of the field generated by of the second magnetic mechanism.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 42, wherein the second magnetic mechanism includes a linear magnet ~~that moves relative to the channels~~.

Claims 45-47 (Canceled).

Claim 48 (Withdrawn and Currently Amended): The method according to claim [[39]] 37, wherein the second magnetic mechanism includes a magnetic structure with single or multiple projections.

Claim 49 (Canceled).

Claim 50 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 37, wherein each channel includes a ferromagnetic strip.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 37, wherein each second receptacle is connected to the first receptacle through a single channel including a capillary.

Claim 52 (Canceled).

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 37, wherein the dividing includes dividing the analyte quantity into equal quantities in each second receptacle.

Claims 54-72 (Canceled).

Claim 73 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 37, wherein the attracting includes forming an agglomeration of the analyte fixed to the magnetic particles.

Claim 74 (Canceled).